



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/099,606	03/15/2002	Eric I-Chao Chang	M61.12-0415	4332

27366 7590 09/12/2005

MICROSOFT CORPORATION C/O WESTMAN
CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.
SUITE 1400 - INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3319

EXAMINER

AZAD, ABUL K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2654

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/099,606	Applicant(s) CHANG, ERIC I-CHAO	
	Examiner ABUL K. AZAD	Art Unit 2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/15/02, 4/22/02, 8/4/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-27 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claims 6 and 7 recite the limitation "the acoustic feature extractor" in lines 1 and 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

6. Claims 1-5, 7-18, 20, 21 and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Field et al. (GB 2 364 850).

As per claim 1, Field teaches, "a voice message processing system", comprising:

"a distributed voice message (VM) data store storing voice message data indicative a plurality of voice messages" (Fig. 2, element 40);

Art Unit: 2654

“a distributed voice data processor, coupled the VM data store, configured to access voice messages, extract desired information from the voice messages and augment the VM data stored the VM data store with the desired information” (Fig. 3, elements 120, 130 and 140); and

“a user interface component coupled the VM data store and configured provide user access to the augmented VM data” (Fig. 2, element 14).

As per claim 2, Field teaches, “rule application component configured receive user rule inputs indicative of user-selected rules and to apply the user- selected rules the augmented VM data” (Page 6, lines 1-17).

As per claim 3, Field teaches, “speaker identification model data store storing at least one speaker identification model” (Page 6, lines 2-4); and

“speaker identification component configured access the speaker identification model data store and provide an indication of an identity speaker associated with voice message corresponding to the VM data” (Page 6, lines 2-4).

As per claim 4, Field teaches, “a speaker model training component configured to receive VM data and train speaker identification model based the VM data and user input indicative of a speaker of voice message corresponding the VM data” (Page 6, lines 19-22).

As per claim 5, Field teaches, “an acoustic feature extractor extracting acoustic features from the VM data, the acoustic features being indicative of desired information” (Page 6, lines 1-17).

As per claim 7, Field teaches, "wherein the acoustic feature extractor configured extract features indicative speaking rate and provide a rate output indicative of the speaking rate" (Page 6, lines 1-17).

As per claim 8, Field teaches, "rate normalization component configured receive the rate output and normalize an associated voice message preselected speaking rate" (Page 6, lines 1-17).

As per claim 9, Field teaches, "a speech-to-text component configured generate textual output indicative content of a voice message" (Page 6, lines 19-27).

As per claim 10, Field teaches, "wherein the speech-to-text component configured generate transcription the voice message as the textual output" (Page 6, lines 19-27).

As per claim 11, Field teaches, "summarization component configured to generate a summary of the voice message" (Page 7, lines 14-24).

As per claim 12, Field teaches, "semantic parser configured generate semantic parse of at least portion the voice message" (Page 7, lines 14-24).

As per claim 13, Field teaches, "wherein the rule application component sorts voice messages based on desired information" (Page 12, lines 37-40).

As per claim 14, Field teaches, "wherein the rule application component generates alarms based the desired information" (Page 14, lines 28-30).

As per claim 15, Field teaches, "wherein the user interface component generates user interface exposing user- selectable inputs for manipulation of the voice message by the user" (Page 14, lines 25-28).

Art Unit: 2654

As per claim 16, Field teaches, "rate changing input which, when actuated by a user, changes a speaking rate associated with voice messages" (Page 6, lines 11-17).

As per claim 17, Field teaches, "wherein the user interface displays a textual indication of a content of a voice message" (Page 14, lines 25-28).

As per claim 18, Field teaches, "wherein the user interface displays an identity indication indicative of an identity of a speaker of a voice message" (Page 14, lines 35-38).

As per claim 20, Field teaches, "wherein the user interface displays a rule indicator indicative of rules being applied" (Page 14, lines 25-28).

As per claims 21 and 23-27, they are interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-18 and 20.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 6, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Field et al. (GB 2 364 850) as applied to claims 4, 15 and 21 above, and further in view of St. John (WO 01/16936).

As per claims 6, 19 and 22, Field does not explicitly teach, "acoustic feature extractor configured extract features indicative of speaker emotion and provide an

Art Unit: 2654

emotion output indicative of the speaker's emotion". However, St. John teaches, "acoustic feature extractor configured extract features indicative of speaker emotion and provide an emotion output indicative of the speaker's emotion" (page 16, line 32 to page 17, line 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use St. John's teaching in the invention because one ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that emotion detection provides a better customer service according to the emotion of customer's voice message.

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7599**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richemond Dorvil**, can be reached at **(571) 272-7602**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

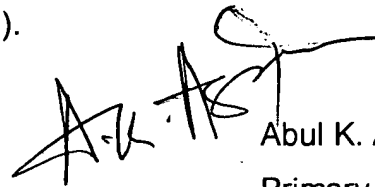
Or faxed to: **(571) 273-8300**.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA-22314** (Customer Service Window).

Art Unit: 2654

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 31, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.K. Azad', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Abul K. Azad

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 2654